

U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit to Shine Light on Youth

The heads of 50 African nations will gather in Washington August 4-6 at the invitation of President Obama for an unprecedented three-day summit.

With the theme “Investing in the Next Generation,” the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit will build on Obama’s 2013 trip to Africa and highlight the U.S. commitment to Africa’s people, security and democratic development. With a focus on deepening the U.S.-Africa partnership, the discussions will look for ways the United States and Africa can:

- Expand cooperation on peace and regional security.
- Promote inclusive and sustainable development.
- Bolster trade and investment.
- Create an enabling environment for the next generation of Africans.

The theme reflects the ambition the United States shares with African people and governments to prepare their nations for future generations by making concrete gains in good governance, peace and security, and economic growth.

A new center of global growth, Africa is creating more opportunities than before for its people. Today’s challenge is to ensure these gains expand and benefit all Africans, which will create new markets and more stable democratic governments.

Throughout the summit, African leaders will have opportunities to interact with President Obama, Cabinet heads, members of the U.S. Congress, U.S. and African business executives and a few Washington Fellows.

The first summit session on investing in Africa’s future will center on inclusive and sustainable development, economic growth and trade and investment. That will be followed by a summit session on long-term solutions to regional conflicts, peacekeeping strategies and combatting transnational threats. The third summit session will focus on enhancing governance to deliver public services; attracting increased domestic and foreign investment; managing transnational threats; and stemming the flow of illicit finance.

The summit will feature six signature events focused on issues such as [civil society](#), [women’s empowerment](#), [food security](#), [global health](#), [wildlife trafficking](#), and the contributions of faith communities. Each signature event will convene U.S. and African leaders from government, civil society and the private sector.

U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman will host the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) ministerial at the World Bank. In this session, African and U.S. trade officials will discuss the future of AGOA and U.S. plans to pursue renewal of AGOA legislation.

The U.S. Department of Commerce and Bloomberg Philanthropies will co-host the first U.S.-Africa Business Forum to focus on strengthening trade and financial ties between the United States and Africa. The forum will highlight U.S. private sector engagement in Africa in the areas of finance and

capital investment; infrastructure; power and energy; agriculture; consumer goods; and information and communication technology. President Obama, Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg will participate.

African leaders will also be welcomed at a reception hosted by the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs committees. President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama also will welcome the leaders for a dinner at the White House.

The summit reflects a shared commitment to the dignity, well-being and freedom of all people. Africa's success is good for Africa and good for the United States.

Photo credit: AP Images

The Women's Luncheon at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit

What is the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit?

It's the largest engagement a U.S. president has ever had with African leaders and governments. The [U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit](#) will bring together 50 heads of state, along with a range of U.S. and African civil society and business leaders, to discuss the future of Africa.

What issues will the Summit address?

The summit leader sessions will focus on topics such as trade and investment, peace and regional stability, and good governance. The signature events will address issues such as civil society, women's empowerment, global health, resilience and food security, and wildlife trafficking.

What will happen at the women's empowerment event?

During the *Investing in Women for Peace and Prosperity* signature event, [U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power](#) will host a panel discussion that will emphasize the importance of investing in women for peace and prosperity; highlight African governments' effort to promote gender equality; and reaffirm African and U.S. commitments to advancing gender equality.

Why is this issue important to young African leaders?

African women's leadership and meaningful participation across sectors and generations are central to sustainable development in Africa. Women's participation — in government, the economy, and society — accelerates economic growth, improves health and education, advances democratic governance and fosters peace and security.

When women have the same opportunities and access to resources as do men, the benefits extend beyond women themselves. As women work to strengthen their families and communities, they foster the education and health of the next generation, hasten economic growth and strengthen public and private institutions.

And when women succeed, nations succeed. In countries where women are empowered to participate and to lead, society is safer, more secure and more prosperous. That's because women's participation in and leadership of public and private institutions make these institutions more representative and more effective.

The United States is committed to supporting the efforts of its African partners and young African leaders to expand women's and girls' access to health care, education, clean water and proper nutrition; and to promote women's full participation in society.

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What was the outcome of the Investing in Women, Peace and Prosperity Signature Event at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit?

Jill Biden, wife of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, opened the "Investing in Women for Peace and Prosperity" signature event at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, where the United States committed new assistance to [advance women's empowerment](#) in Africa. The support will bolster women's participation in peace building and in parliamentary campaigns, assist in the development or implementation of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, and help women entrepreneurs to launch or expand businesses.

The United States will provide technical support to strengthen African Union and national-level efforts to address barriers to the equal participation of women in the agricultural sector. Through [wPOWER](#) and working with the [Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves](#), it will provide grants to organizations that promote the role of women entrepreneurs in selling clean technologies and that scale-up programs to educate adolescent girls on clean-energy technologies. The United States also will provide increased assistance to the Inter-Parliamentary Union to build the capacity of African parliaments working to advance gender equality and to support parliamentary campaigns on specific gender-equality issues.
